(Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM.)

of letter be allowed free scope to discharge his duty as legislator ? That is a question which is left to the decision of the Government and the Chair. The fact that it is not signed must not be a ground for overlooking the danger that has been threatened on a certain member.

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Minister for Law and Education).—I am sure the House entirely sympathises with the Hon'ble Member Sri B. P. Nagaraja Murthy. Freedom of speech in this House is a cherished privilege which has got to be safeguarded from all encroachments and I sympathise with him along with the rest of the House.

Next, Sir, the anonymity itself speaks ill of the person who has written that letter. If he had the courage of his conviction he should have signed and sent the letter. In the absence of the signature, the encroachment of the right of a member of this House or the breach of privilege that has happened it is very difficult to comprehend or pursue the matter.

All the same, every protection that is needed by the Hon'ble Member will be extended by the Government to him and he can rest assured and rely on that.

I feel that the letter may be forwarded to the Government for such action as may be deemed necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER.—No doubt there is a short notice question tabled by Sri B.P. Nagaraja Murthy. This short notice question, as Hon'ble Members are aware of, can be taken up only if the Minister concerned gives his consent. The Minister in this case has stated that he has already answered and therefore it need not be taken up again. So, on that account that was not taken up. And in view of the serious matter that has now been brought to our notice, the letter in the first instance may be forwarded, if the member has no objection, to my office. I will consider as to what should be done next.

Sri B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY.—I had submitted a motion also under Rule 39.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Because there is the answer by the concerned Minister that after the full information is received—that is how I remember, subject to correction—he will be in a position to give the information and by the way in which he said that full information he has not received. . . .

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—That is not the position, Sir. So far as the second short notice question is concerned, I have declined to give my consent to answer it for the reason that the points covered by the second short notice question are more or less covered by the first short notice question. But I have no objection if you, Sir, in your discretion, allow the discussion under Rule 39. Now I am in a position to say that a report has been received by me. But I have not passed any orders. The report was received just a day or two back.

Mr. SPEAKER.—So far as the short notice question is concerned, this is the note made by the Hon'ble Minister concerned—

> "I do not wish to answer this as I have already answered once."

In view of that I could not do anything. Now, as the concerned Minister says that he has received information, I will allow discussion.

Sri B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY.—Thank you, Sir.

Business of the House

*Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM (Jagalur).—I want to bring to the notice of the Chair that yesterday the Hon'ble Minister for Law presented the report of the Sales Tax Select Committee to the House. But we did not get copies of the report till 11 this morning. So we had absolutely no time to study it and send notice of amendments. I suggest therefore that the time for sending up amendments may be extended till 11 o'clock tomorrow and the discussion on the Bill may be taken up only on Monday.

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Minister for Law and Education).—I am sorry for the late delivery of the copies. In view of only 3 or 4 days being left for us, I submit that notice of amendments, if any, may be given

by Five of the clock today so that we may pursue the discussion tomorrow.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Is it not possible for the Members to send amendments by Five of the clock today ?

Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM.—I think the Bill itself may be taken up for discussion on Monday.

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—Tomorrow.

Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM.—Amendments may be tabled before 5 o' clock today and the Select Committee Report may be taken up on Monday.

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—That depends upon the work the Assembly has and it may be left to the Chair to regulate that.

Mr. SPEAKER.—There is the Irrigation Bill. I do not know whether it will be moved or not. The concerned Minister has not given me any definite reply. There is also the Law Minister's Bill, that is, the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Mysore Amendment) Bill. If these two Bills are taken up tomorrow, we will have sufficient work. Otherwise, the other Bill relating to land revenue will have to be taken up.

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—Regarding the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Mysore Amendment) Bill, 1954, we are holding discussion in the light of additional information that we have received and I do not think we will be introducing it tomorrow. It may even be taken up at the next session. Therefore, provisionally we will have tomorrow the Sales Tax(Amendment) Bill and amendments may be sent by five or six today evening.

MADRAS GENERAL SALES TAX (MYSORE AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954

Presentation of Report

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—Sir, with your permission I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Madras General Sales Tax (Mysore Amendment) Bill, 1954.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Now the debate on the Housing Board Bill will continue.

MYSORE HOUSING BOARD BILL, 1954.

Motion to consider (contd.)

*Sri T. MARIAPPA (Mysore City North).—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have had the benefit of a searching analysis of the provisions of the Mysore Housing Board Bill yesterday. My Hon'ble friend Sri M. V. Rama Rao has taken a great deal of trouble not only in studying the Bill but in suggesting very salutary changes in the existing provisions of the draft Bill. Sir, the Government have not made out a very convincing case for this House to accept the Bill in the form in which it is placed before this House. Sir, the only reason for the Government to draft this Bill seems to be that the Mysore Labour Housing Act does not fit into the Industrial Housing Scheme of the Government of India under the Five-Year Plan. They are of the opinion that under the Five-Year Plan the Industrial Housing Scheme offers many advantages and it is more advantageous to the employees of the State Government and labour. They have also stated that the Planning Commission has suggested the constitution of Regional Housing Boards and that proper legislation should also be undertaken for the constitution of such Housing Boards. Therefore, they mainly rely on the point that the Bill is intended to implement the Five-Year Plan so that full advantage may be taken of the financial assistance which the Government of India propose to give to the Housing Schemes in general and Industrial Housing in particular. Sir, that by itself is indeed very good. But the question is, whether the Bill should be comprehensive in character or merely a Bill enacted for a short duration. Sir, as is well-known, housing problem is not a problem of short-duration but it continues to engage the attention of all the administrators for a long time to come. And therefore it is safer and it is more expedient to have a Bill which is comprehensive in character.

Sir, some of the Hon'ble Members of this House have said that the Bill does not satisfy the requirements of the